

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8478

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3614

LIMDIS

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN'S INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK'S DE BOURCHGRAVE
ON SOVIET MISSILE NEGOTIATIONS AND OTHER ISSUES

REF: AMMAN 3584 (NOTAL)

1. NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE
HAS GIVEN EMBASSY ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS FULL
TEXT OF 6 JULY INTERVIEW, PART OF WHICH SCHEDULED TO
APPEAR 12 JULY IN NEWSWEEK AND MAYBE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF KING HUSSEIN'S REMARKS ARE:
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--(A) WHILE SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM OFFER

IN SOME WAYS MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN WHAT HAWK PACKAGE
HAS BEEN, GOJ'S PROBLEM OF FINANCING REMAINS;

--(B) SAUDIS EARLIER REFUSAL TO FINANCE WHAT
HAS BEEN FULL PRICE OF HAWKS CALLED "UNDERSTANDABLE"
AND TREATED MORE DIPLOMATICALLY THAN GOJ HAS DONE IN
PAST;

--(C) GOJ-US RELATIONSHIP SAID TO HAVE BEEN
DAMAGED BEGINNING IN 1974 WHEN US ACQUIESCED IN ISRAELI
SHIFT FROM WEST BANK SETTLEMENT TO SINAI STEPS ("LEADING
US TO RABAT"); FURTHER STRAINS CREATED BY
U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO
REGIONAL MILITARY IMBALANCE, HAWK MISSILE PROBLEMS
(TIME REQUIRED BY U.S. TO MAKE OFFER UNFAVORABLY
COMPARED TO ONE MONTH IT TOOK SOVIETS), AND U.S.
INTERNATIONAL POSTURE WHICH "MORE INTERESTED IN
PLACATING FOES THAN IN CONCILIATING FRIENDS". TREND
OF THESE EVENTS HAS LED GOJ TO DIVERSIFY ITS
INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS;

--(D) PLO BLAMED FOR CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN
LEBANON;

--(E) JORDAN NOW OUT OF PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT,
BUT MAY PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA AS CONFRONTATION STATE.

3. KING HUSSEIN'S REMARKS IN INTERVIEW WENT THROUGH
SEVERAL VERSIONS, FIRST EDITED BY PRIME MINISTER RIFAI
AND FINALLY BY KING, HIMSELF. NOTABLE CHANGES TO
KING'S ANSWERS PUT SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM DEAL IN
MORE UNCERTAIN, CONDITIONAL TENSE RATHER THAN DEFINITE
FUTURE TENSE (E.G., FROM "WILL SEND OUR CREWS TO RUSSIA
FOR TRAINING" TO "WOULD"SEND THEM THERE) AND CHANGED
TERMS OF HAWK DEAL FROM PRESENT TO PAST TENSE (INDICATING
POSSIBILITY OF FAVORABLE CHANGE IN THOSE TERMS). KING
HUSSEIN INFINAL VERSION ALSO SOFTENED RIFAI'S EDITING
OF ORIGINAL REMARKS SO THAT CHANGE IN PLO LEADERSHIP
NOT AS STRONGLY CALLED FOR AS RIFAI WANTED, AND DOOR
TO JORDAN'S PARTICIPATION IN SETTLING PALESTINIAN
QUESTION NOT SO TIGHTLY CLOSED (E.G., KING ADDED
THAT JORDAN WOULD "SUPPORT" PALESTINIANS AT A RESUMED
GENEVA CONFERENCE EVEN THOUGH GOJ WOULD NOT "SPEAK"
FOR THEM, AND BOTH KING AND RIFAI DECIDED TO ELIMINATE
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WORD "IRREVERSIBLY" FROM REMAKRS THAT ISRAEL'S PRE-
RABAT STANCE ON WEST BANK NEGOTIATIONS HAD REMOVED
GOJ FROM ROLE IN PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT).

4. FINAL VERSION OF FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW
BEING SENT SEPTEL TO DEPARTMENT.
PICKERING

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